

RELIEF TO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
WHO ISSUE TAX EXEMPT BONDS**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I have just reintroduced to provide relief to municipal utilities who issue tax exempt bonds. This legislation would permit these utilities to take advantage of a process known as "advance refunding," which allows the bond issuer to take advantage of favorable market conditions by refinancing their debt at a lower interest rate. The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the 107th Congress that was cosponsored by the entire South Carolina Congressional delegation.

Advance refunding works just like refinancing your home. If interest rates have dropped since you purchased your home, then you can refinance, or "advance refund," that home at the lower rate. This can save the average homeowner thousands of dollars in foregone interest payments.

This same refinancing has, in the past, been allowed for municipal utilities who use tax exempt bonds to finance their facilities and equipment. Because of the large capital costs associated with power generation and distribution, the debt incurred from these issues is often substantial, and debt service payments end up being one of the largest expenses for the utility. These higher costs are then passed on to the consumer in the form of higher electric rates. If these companies are allowed to refinance, they can save millions of dollars in foregone interest payments, which translates into lower rates for the average consumer.

Under current tax law, these municipal utilities have been able to advance refund their debt only once since 1986. Many of these utilities companies still face staggering debts. For one utility company in my state, these debt payments have become particularly burdensome, and all of its customers are suffering from the resulting high rates. With interest rates so low, this utility is convinced that if it is allowed to advance refund one additional time, it will be able to stabilize its debt service and significantly lower these rates.

That is what my legislation does. It allows municipal utilities to advance refund one additional time if they have already advance refunded since 1986.

Municipal utilities are by no means the only issuers of tax exempt bonds. I have limited the scope of this bill to municipal utilities because they face substantial debts and are subject to limitations that state and local governments are not. The bill is open to modification for others who might benefit from advance refunding of their debt.

During consideration of the most recent tax bill in the Senate, Senator LINCOLN offered an amendment that allowed for additional advance refunding for Arkansas schools. While I am sure that Arkansas schools need such relief, other sectors need similar relief, and especially municipal utilities. I am pleased to see Senator LINCOLN reopen the advance refunding debate, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss inclusion of my bill in tax reform measures taken up by the House in the future. The benefits to my state, and others,

would be significant, and they would ultimately be enjoyed by consumers.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GLAD TIDINGS CHURCH
OF GOD IN CHRIST**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Glad Tidings Church founded by Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Macklin in 1978 in Hayward, California. From its earliest inception, Glad Tidings reflected what many considered a new and refreshing direction in church ministry. With a strong commitment to communities and families, this young church began to position itself for a long-term commitment to the city of Hayward.

In 1981, Glad Tidings purchased their first edifice in South Hayward. Believing that Glad Tidings had a vision and a ministry to meet the growing needs of a changing neighborhood, the Hayward Covenant Church sold a 15,000 square foot facility, including a sanctuary with seating for 150 people, to a young, energetic congregation.

Within a few short years, the mortgage was liquidated and the existing facility was remodeled to include a new sanctuary seating approximately 300 people. The remaining facility was remodeled to accommodate executive offices, classrooms, and a fellowship hall.

In the midst of Glad Tidings' growth is the incredible story of a congregation, whose vision, fortitude and commitment has brought them face to face with a suburban community that had become very much urban within a few short years. As the church grew, the obvious need to build new facilities was more than evident. Glad Tidings Church was faced with a major dilemma; to relocate to a suburban community or to stay and build in a challenged community filled with drugs, crime, and rampant poverty.

In 1990, Glad Tidings Church adopted a strategic plan, which required the church to involve itself to an even greater degree in the surrounding neighborhoods in decline. A neighborhood revitalization program was set in motion. Glad Tidings established a strong proactive presence in city government, schools, community, and police affairs. This community outreach provided a base for support networks to thrive with other surrounding neighborhoods, agencies and businesses and gave voice to the South Hayward community.

Glad Tidings Church established a central neighborhood campus while networking with other community services to offer a creative and supportive environment of programs, housing, services and facilities which address many of the major needs and concerns of a community in need of revitalization.

I applaud Glad Tidings Church's focus on economic development, job and career training, youth and adult education, youth and adult support services and health services all provided within a spiritual setting which accents excellence at all levels of life for all people. I congratulate Glad Tidings Church on its 25th anniversary and wish the leadership and congregation many years of continued success.

THE GINSENG LABELING
CORRECTION ACT**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation I introduced today called The Ginseng Labeling Correction Act. This legislation seeks to fix a technical problem with a provision that was included in the farm bill Congress passed last year.

Section 10806(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 amended the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by placing limitations on the use of the term "ginseng" as the common or usual name for plants classified within the genus *Panax*. The purpose of this provision was to address confusion that had arisen from products derived from different plants being labeled as "Siberian ginseng."

When labeling changes are enacted, the Food and Drug Administration recognizes that, in order to assure an orderly and economical industry adjustment to new labeling requirements, a sufficient lead time is necessary to permit planning for the use of existing label inventories and the development of new labeling materials.

Unfortunately, the ginseng provision Congress included in the farm bill lacked a specific effective date that would have allowed FDA's typical transition period to occur. Therefore, on May 13, 2002, the day the farm bill was signed into law, companies that had products labeled "Siberian ginseng" became criminally liable. This was clearly not the intent of Congress, and was simply an oversight on the part of the Senate and House in writing that portion of the farm bill. In fact, Senator Tom Harkin, the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, attempted to correct this omission in the FY 2003 Emergency War-time Supplemental, PL-108-11. However, in the rush to complete work on the bill the provision was left out even though there were no objections to it.

However, this omission needs to be corrected as soon as possible. Therefore, I have introduced The Ginseng Labeling Correction Act, which states that Section 10806(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 will become effective thirty days after the legislation becomes law.

It is my desire to have this bill move to the House floor as quickly as possible. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this minor, but critically important, correction to the farm bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN
ADRIAN WIGGINS**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Norman Adrian Wiggins on his retirement as President of my alma mater, Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. For 36 extraordinary years, Dr. Wiggins' leadership and vision have transformed Campbell from a small, rural school

into the nation's second largest Baptist university.

From his first day on the job in 1967, Dr. Wiggins has strengthened the undergraduate college, developed an innovative Trust Management Program, and added five new schools to the University: The Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, The Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, The School of Education, The School of Pharmacy, and The School of Divinity. He also established during his tenure an ROTC Program and a number of substantial international programs, most notably with Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Indeed, Dr. Wiggins' tireless efforts have extended Campbell's sphere of influence throughout the communities of North Carolina, the nation, and the world.

During his career, Dr. Wiggins taught and mentored over 25,000 students who have gone out into the world to serve as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and ministers. These Campbell graduates provide our people with jobs and economic opportunities, care for our nation's sick and elderly, defend our rights under the rule of law as attorneys, prepare our children to be tomorrow's leaders, and uplift our national soul.

But Dr. Wiggins' leadership extends far beyond the hallowed halls of Campbell University. He has served as president of both the Baptist State Convention and the American Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. His peers hail him as a leader who embodies a depth of experience, understanding, and passion that few will ever match.

Dr. Wiggins' innovative leadership and unique vision have earned him widespread recognition. His numerous awards include the Commander's Award for Public Service and the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal from the United States Army, and the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Service Award, all of which acknowledge Dr. Wiggins' unfailing commitment to improving the lives of his fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wiggins is an exemplary figure of patriotism, leadership, dedication, and commitment. As a Campbell alumnus, I am proud to honor Dr. Norman Adrian Wiggins today. I ask all of my colleagues to join me and Faye in celebrating his 36 years of service to Campbell University, to the State of North Carolina, and to the United States of America.

**10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAISING
THE PATRIOTS OF AFRICAN DE-
SCENT MONUMENT IN VALLEY
FORGE NATIONAL PARK, VAL-
LEY FORGE ALUMNAE CHAPTER
OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SOROR-
ITY**

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the raising of the Patriots of African Descent Monument in Valley Forge National Historical Park. Ninety years ago, the Delta Sigma Theta So-

rority started with 22 women, right here in our Nation's Capital at Howard University, and has since expanded to the 200,000 member, 90 chapter organization that exists today.

The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of this public service organization was chartered on February 10, 1991 and has since contributed to the local and national community in ways consistent with the organization's Five Point Program foci of: educational development, economic development, physical and mental health, political awareness and international awareness and involvement.

These contributions are signified in the Chapter's effort and success in erecting the Patriots of African Descent Monument in 1993 at Valley Forge, one of our Nation's most historical parks. The monument remains the only such edifice to be raised in any of the units of the National Park system and contributes to the education of visitors to the Park of the role African-Americans played in the country's founding. More specifically, the monument signifies the tremendous service and sacrifice African-American soldiers of the Continental Army provided to a fledgling nation.

The Valley Forge National Park holds great historic value as the site dedicated to the Continental Army's bravery, suffering and sacrifice that took place during the harsh winter encampment there in 1777-78, during which time some 2,000 soldiers died.

The Patriots of African Descent Monument only furthers the historic symbolism of the Park by recognizing the numerous contributions and sacrifices of African-Americans during the Revolutionary War, in particular the approximately 500 African-American soldiers who suffered terribly along with the many other Continental soldiers during the long, harsh winter spent in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Since the monument's unveiling in 1993, this statue has contributed to educating visitors of Valley Forge to the diverse cultures that contributed to this Nation's birth and will continue to do so with the sustained involvement and efforts of the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Valley Forge Historical Society and citizens. I congratulate and commend the Chapter's continued efforts to educate future generations regarding historic artifacts and places which "tell the American story" and recognize the 10 year anniversary of the Patriots of African Descent Monument and its symbolic place in our Nation's history.

**WALTER CRAIG AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY POST 60 IN ROCK-
FORD, ILLINOIS**

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60 located in Rockford, Illinois. This auxiliary post is dedicated to supporting the veterans and their families in my congressional district, and I would like to acknowledge the many accomplishments of the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60: Americanism Patriotic Conference; and Youth Conference, Spirit of Youth Fund Schol-

arships for Jr. Girls Nation and Youth Conference; Auxiliary Emergency Fund for Displaced Homemakers; American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; Dept. Children and Youth Christmas Gifts for Institutional Children; Children and Youth Scholarships for teaching field of handicapped children; Children's Heartlink Heart surgery for needy children; Children's Miracle Network hospital care for children in need; Special Olympics; Spinoza Buddy Bear Project; Department Scholarship Fund for All Dept. Scholarship Funds; Funding for Special Field Services 7 VA Hospitals; Dept. National Security Fund ROTC Awards 7 Patriotic Conference; Nurses Scholarship Fund; Six Point Program extras for hospitalized veterans; North Chicago Medical Center; Crime Stopper; World War II Nurses; Rescue Mission.

Mr. Speaker, the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60 is an exemplary post, and its members take great pride in helping their local veterans. This post is to be commended for its many accomplishments and steadfast support of the veterans in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I missed the legislative business of Monday, June 2, 2003 due to a delay in my flight from Mississippi. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 227, for H. Res. 159: expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Irma Rangel; "yea" on rollcall No. 228, for H. Res. 195: congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs; and "yea" on rollcall No. 229, for H.R. 1465: to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office."

**TRIBUTE TO DIANA BOSFIELD-
MOORE**

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Diana Bosfield-Moore, a teacher at Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School who, after 28 and a half years of dedicated service, has decided to retire from the Dade County Public Schools.

Diana Bosfield-Moore was born and raised in Miami, Florida and is a proud graduate of Miami Northwestern Sr. High School. She attended Miami Dade Community College where she received her AA Degree and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science Degree from Florida Memorial College.

Ms. Bosfield-Moore brought a wealth of educational experience to her teaching. She began her career in education as a Paraprofessional in 1974. Soon afterwards, Ms. Bosfield Moore moved to Computer Lab Specialist, Reading Tutor, Substitute Teacher,